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Manuscript inventories only are found for the other archives, and are even lacking to some of them, as it is impossible to make them without first arranging their papers which came into the Section in complete disorder.

Soon to be transferred provisionally to the new edifice of the Biblioteca Nacional, while the extensive and commodious building which is being constructed west of the above mentioned palace of the library, the Manuscripts Section will be definitively organized within a short time under conditions which will permit the elimination of the defects from which it is suffering at present and to experience without obstruction the extension of its services in consequence of its violent development because of the new archives which it will then receive and which will convert it into one of the richest, if not one of the most valuable of the historical archives of Hispanic America.

TOMÁS THAYER OJEDA

Chief of the Manuscripts Section  
of the Biblioteca Nacional of Santiago,  
Chile.

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#### THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE HISTORY SECTION, FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY AND LETTERS, UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Because of the augmenting importance of the volumes of documents which the National University of Buenos Aires is publishing through the History Section of its Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, it is desired, in this article, to give an idea of their value, and of the scope of the vast and admirable undertaking of which each of these volumes is a carefully prepared, harmonious part. As source material for history, the documents presented in the series under consideration usually relate solely to the territory now constituting the Argentine Republic, although occasionally, with respect to matters which cannot be so definitely segregated, there is furnished the whole related process of laws and procedure, which, in affecting the Spanish colonies of America, concerned Argentina among the rest. The value of the volumes which the University of Buenos Aires is issuing, is, however, more than solely the historical value of the documents they so accurately present. As models and encouragement they are invested with

another, and possibly as great an interest, for all students of history, especially those most appreciative of undiluted, unadulterated, limpid sources.

Editorially these books meet the requirements of the most exacting criticism. From a good beginning the series has improved in each successive volume, as the work done in various archives has trained those in charge of investigations to recognize and master difficulties, and their experience has taught the editors how more nearly to achieve their own advancing ideal with respect to presentation. The latest volume is close indeed upon the history student's conception of perfection in this particular field of work.

It was Sr. D. José Nicolás Matienzo who, when dean of the University of Buenos Aires, conceived the plan of publishing in serial groups, documents covering determined epochs in Argentine history. Under his auspices appeared volumes entitled *Documentos para la historia del Virreinato del Río de la Plata*, *Documentos relativos a los antecedentes de la Independencia de la República Argentina*, and *Documentos relativos a la Organización Constitucional de la República Argentina*, to which must be added *Gobierno del Perú* (sixteenth century) by Licentiate Juan de Matienzo. These form ten volumes of selected documents.

Under Sr. D. Norberto Piñero, dean, certain editorial reforms were effected, and there emerged the University's Section of History, placed under the special direction of Sr. D. Luis M. Torres, with Sr. D. Emilio Ravignani in charge of investigations.<sup>1</sup> They were assisted by Drs. Romulo D. Carbia, Diego Luis Molinari and Carlos Correa Luna, all specialists in these matters, with reputations established among Argentine students of history. Then began the new series of publications, which still continues, under the general title of *Documents for Argentine History*.

Under succeeding deans (Sr. D. Rodolfo Rivarola, and the present incumbent, Sr. D. Alejandro Korn) the volumes of this series have steadily improved, each upon the preceding, until, as has been said, the latest, Volume IX., *Administración Edilicia de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires*, is a model of its kind. It is the flower of a well surveyed, well cultivated field.

Sr. Torres classifies the requirements which must be met in prepara-

<sup>1</sup> Since this article was written Sr. Torres has resigned the direction of the History Section, to become director of the Museo de la Plata, but he will continue to collaborate in its work, which is now in the hands of the former chief of investigations, Sr. Ravignani.

tion of each volume of the series, under four different heads, which he considers fundamental:<sup>2</sup>

1. Investigation and determination of sources. *I.e.*, Exploration of public and private archives, both national and foreign, and provincial and municipal. Preparation of catalogues and special bibliographies.

2. Extrinsic criticism of sources. *I.e.*, Determination of origin (date, place, person) and certification of authenticity.

3. Classification: General character—Classification of materials a) Antecedents; b) Form; c) Function. Chronological and geographical order—The concordant indices (by subject, person, place, date).

4. Publication: General Series; Partial Series; Preliminary interpretation of the value of the documents; Bibliography by subjects; Partial indices (authors, patronymics, topics); Concordant indices of each partial series.

The History Section has carried forward its investigations in the principal archives of Argentina, and in certain archives of Europe, among them the Archivo General de Indias, at Seville. In each instance a thorough survey has been made of the archives in general, of its content relative to Argentina in particular, with careful preparation of notes sufficiently detailed to enable the History Section to identify, compare, and select intelligently from the wealth of material so made available.

The general plan for publications, which Sr. Torres presents in a recent volume of the series, classifies the volumes yet to appear into large serial groups which cover only the epoch embraced between the erection of the viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata and the year 1810, when Argentina became independent. In view of the excellence of the work which the History Section is doing, students will certainly desire that its labors shall extend to preceding periods of Argentine history, including as far as possible matters of general interest to all Hispanic America, as was done, for instance, in *Antecedentes legales del comercio libre de Indias*.

The plan according to which the History Section is working is the following:

Territory and Population:

Geographical explorations and cartography of the viceroyalty

Extent and population of the city and vicinity of Buenos Aires (1726-1809)

Extent and population of the cities, towns, military districts, and *corregimientos* (civil and religious census reports and similar rosters)

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<sup>2</sup> "La Seccion de Historia de la Facultad de Filosofia y Letras en el Congreso Americano de Ciencias Sociales reunido en Tucumán, el 5 de Julio de 1916," in *Revista Argentina de Ciencias Políticas*, Buenos Aires, 1916, Year VI., Vol. XII., No. 70.

- Native and black elements of population in the cities, towns, and country
- estates of the viceroyalty; life and customs
- Boundaries.
- Trade and Commerce in America:
  - Legal antecedents (1713-1778)
  - Free trade (1778-1791)
  - Commercial organizations (*consulado*), slave and foreign trade (1791-1809)
  - Commercial memorials and representations (1771-1810)
  - Customs administration (1778-1810)
  - Administration of commercial organizations (*consulado*) (1785-1810)
- Economics and Royal Treasury:
  - Industries and technology
  - Exploitation of mines
  - Currency and credit
  - Guilds
  - Property
  - Imposts
  - Ways and means of communication.
- Political:
  - Foreign—
    - Differences with Portugal
    - Differences with England
    - Differences with France
  - Domestic—
    - Tupac-Amaru uprising
    - Precursory subversive movements
    - The revolutions of 1809 and 1810.
- Administration:
  - Viceroyalty—
    - Antecedents of its erection (1771-1776)
    - Establishment (1776-1778)
    - Duration (1778-1805)
  - Audiencia*
  - Royal Treasury
  - Intendencies
  - Councils
  - Municipal administration
  - Organization of military institutions
  - Government of indigenous peoples
  - Consequences of the expulsion of the Jesuits.
- Culture:
  - Public instruction
  - Literature and bibliography
  - Habits and customs
  - Artistic manifestations
  - Folklore
  - Iconography
  - Biography.

## Church:

Diocesan organization

Parishes

Ecclesiastical justice

Tithes<sup>3</sup>.

Further, the History Section purposes to translate into Spanish the accounts written by certain English travelers and chroniclers of the 18th and early 19th centuries, who visited or described the Plate countries, and recorded their experiences and opinions in curious books, full of singular and astute observations. These will be published in critical editions, supplemented by extensive studies by specialists.

Those persons who interest themselves in matters of this sort will recognize the immensity of the task which the History Section of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Buenos Aires is undertaking; but an inspection of the later volumes which have been issued furnishes full assurance that the work is in preeminently competent hands. In the volumes already issued appear names of illustrious Argentine historians who have furnished prologues to certain of the selections presented. Omitting the names of members of the Section itself, who have already been cited, there may be mentioned Juan Agustín García, Ricardo Levene, and Enrique del Valle Iberlucea.

Parallel with this work, there is being published a collection of monographs, intended to throw light upon, or to revise, certain historical questions still of true interest, which, thanks to documents heretofore unknown, now being discovered in the rich archives which the History Section is exploring, can today be treated with greater certainty and wider knowledge. Collaborators in this new collection, up to the present, are Luis M. Torres, Emilio Ravignani, Juan Álvarez, Roberto Lehmann-Nitsche, and Rómulo D. Carbia.

It is not too much to say that among the current publications which deal with American history, none are issued on so carefully premeditated a plan as this one, so especially correlated to deal with all the factors in the life of the past centuries of Hispanic American colonization and development, nor do any so satisfactorily fulfil the highest modern concept of what critical presentation of sources should be. The History Section of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the National University of Buenos Aires honors Argentina, in honoring itself with these excellent publications, which are a magnificent exponent of the

<sup>3</sup> Plan for Historical Investigation and Publication of the History Section, foreword to Volume V., *Documentos para la Historia Argentina*, Buenos Aires, 1915.

degree of perfection in research which is being attained in Argentina, the nicety of historical discipline there maintained, to the end of dissipating legends and setting forth the far more valuable truths of American history—so long unknown, distorted or ignored.

Furthermore, to students whose interests lie outside Argentina, this series is of vital interest, for it rises like a goal ahead which can, and will, certainly be attained by analogous institutions of other countries, when intermittent and desultory investigations shall have been consolidated and correlated on some such plan as the one here described. Only such forethought, determination, persistence, and exacting care as the University of Buenos Aires is now exercising through its History Section of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters can accomplish permanent and creditable work in this field of endeavour.<sup>4</sup>

I. A. WRIGHT.

*Seville, Spain, May, 1920.*

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## NOTES

### ITEMS IN COMMERCE REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1920

Additional steamship service for Mexico. No. 287, December 7.

American commercial aeroplanes in Mexico. No. 273, November 19.

American paper and office supplies in Mazatlan, Mexico, No. 269, November 15.

American tractors and agricultural machinery in southern Brazil. No. 288, December 8.

American trolley cars in Buenos Aires. No. 282, December 1.

Anomalies of exchange in Trinidad. No. 237, October 8.

Argentina's exports for first nine months of 1920. No. 271, November 17.

Argentine export duties for December. No. 285, December 4.

The Argentine market for calcium carbide, glycerine, and other chemical products. No. 279, November 27.

Argentine market for drugs and veterinary remedies. No. 283, December 2.

<sup>4</sup>The only North American university which has undertaken any serious, continuous work in Hispanic American research, is the University of California, which, while proceeding upon quite another course, is, nevertheless, accomplishing much, thanks to possession of a central plan.